(d) and (e) A proposal to withdraw the Textile Committee cess is under consideration of the Government, with a view to rationalise the tax and cess burden on the Indian textile industry to improve its competitiveness in the global markets in the changed scenario.

Import of wool

†1645. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of demand and supply of wool in the country;

(b) whether wool is also imported from foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the value and quantity of wool imported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA):

(a) The demand for wool is more than what is produced in the country and therefore, imports are resorted to.

(b) and (c) Yes, the quantity and value of wool imported during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Quantity (in million kg.)	Value (Rs. In crore)
2002-03	73.92	801.83
2003-04	84.61	870.61
2004-05	82.47	825.95

(Source: DGCIS, Kolkata)

Role of NIFT in increasing exports

1646. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NIFT has been of help in increasing exports of textiles and garments from India;

(b) the details of the contribution of NIFT to the sector; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the expectations in the future?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) NIFT imparts Fashion Business education to cater to the Professional manpower requirement of Textiles, Garments and Fashion Goods Industries for domestic as well as international market.

(b) NIFT has trained more than 10,000 graduates through its regular programs and its continuing education, outreach and customized training programs for the Industry.

(c) NIFT expects increased interface between academy and industry in future.

MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Reported resignation of a Minister from the Union Council of Ministers

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the first Volcker Finding Report first appeared on the website, if I recollect it right, on the 27th October. Between 27th October and today, almost a month and a half has passed, and, what the country has been subjected to for 45 days is not something that we would wish to live over again. I do not recollect, Sir, when a Minsiter of External Affairs has had to be subjected, or, the country has had to be subjected to the kind of indignity that the former Minsiter of external Affairs has been subjected to. It is also a matter of concern and sadness to all of us, Sir, that when this happened --- and nobody is enhanced, and it is not as if the standing or prestige of any of us who are in the field of political activism benefit from it-- the collectivity of all of us is diminished in some sense. It is saddening that all decision that had to be taken had to be taken near midnight, that they had to be taken after the kind of protest that the two Hosues of Parliament went through. This kind of protest in parliament is not a new thing. Sir, I had the honour of serving in both the Houses of Parliament for a sufficient number of terms to know that this has become a form of protest, and it has become a form of protest only when there has been absence of the grievance redressal system. There is a grievance that the Opposition had. That grievance could very easily have been answered. That is why, I say, Sir, that it is a sad event that has taken place. But, nevertheless, it is an incomplete situation because the Volcker Committee identified was, a